

More of the Lord God of Heaven's Armies Presence

Slide 3. Introduction: How can we gain more attendance in Church? There are brothers and sisters that sit before the Lord and are blessed by the Lord in our services. There are brothers and sisters who get nothing from God during the same service.

Slide 4. How can we encourage better attendance? Both members and visitors.

Better Preaching

Modern Music Sounds

More Comfortable Sanctuary

A More Diverse Crowd

Friendlier People

Slide 5. Word gets around when the Lord God Almighty visits the church.

We don't want to miss church Because we want Our needs met.

We want others to experience Christ's Blessings

The Holy Spirit Moves in Services

Gifts of the Spirit are in Operation

Slide 6. Jonathan Edwards, Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God. July 8, 1741

Text: [Amo 9:2-3 KJV] 2 Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down: 3 And though they hide themselves in the top of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from my sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent, and he shall bite them:

One tradition has it that Edwards was not even the designated or intended preacher that day. He was a stand-in. Such is the strange providence of God. A group of ministers entered the meeting house at Enfield where the sermon was to be preached. Teams of such ministers were traveling around New England as itinerants preaching revival sermons, capturing to the fullest extent possible the move of the Spirit of God that was sovereignly occurring. As one participant later recalled, when the ministers entered the church at Enfield, the gathered people were "thoughtless and vain." By comparison with other towns at the time, the people there were not even showing any particular interest—let alone great passion—regarding the things of God. In fact, they "hardly conducted themselves with common decency."³ This was not an auspicious beginning. There was no 'atmosphere' of readiness and seriousness, nor even normal, polite attentiveness.

But then Edwards began to preach. We do not know exactly how Edwards preached—there were no video recordings of his style, his mannerisms, and any idea we have of his technique is only gathered from a few reports of the way he preached and by drawing conclusions from the copious sermon manuscripts that are preserved. Samuel Hopkins, in his Life of President Edwards, gives a famous set of descriptions of his preaching. Everyone at the time acknowledged Edwards as an "Eminent Preacher." This, Hopkins says, was for three principal reasons.

First, Edwards “took great pains in composing his sermons . . . He wrote most of his sermons all out, for near twenty years after he began to preach; though he did not confine himself wholly to his notes in delivering them.” Second, “his great acquaintance with divinity, his study, and knowledge of the Bible. His extensive and universal knowledge, and great clearness of thought.” Third, “his great acquaintance with his own heart, his inward sense, and relish of divine things . . . this gave him a great insight into human nature: he knew what was in man both the saint and sinner.” Hopkins added that “his appearance in the desk was with a good grace, and his delivery easy, natural and very solemn.”

On this day in history (July 8, 1741), Jonathan Edwards started a sermon that he did not finish. Such was the impact of his preaching that the people listening shrieked and cried out, and the crying and weeping became so loud that Edwards was forced to discontinue the sermon. Instead, the pastors went down among the people and prayed with them in groups. Many came to a saving knowledge of Christ that day.

Text

Slide 7. [Isa 66:2, 5 KJV] 2 For all those [things] hath mine hand made, and all those [things] have been, saith the LORD: **but to this [man] will I look, [even] to [him that is] poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.** ... 5 Hear the word of the LORD, ye that **tremble** at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.

How in the World can Christians Not Know God?

Slide 8. [Jer 9:2-3 KJV] 2 Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they [be] all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men. 3 And they bend their tongues [like] their bow [for] lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD.

Don't fear man, fear God. Tremble at his word.

Slide 9. These Don't Know Him. [Jhn 7:12-13 KJV] 12 And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people. 13 Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.

Why Don't you Fear Him?

Slide 10. [Jer 5:22 KJV] 22 Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand [for] the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?

[Jer 5:22 NKJV] 22 Do you not fear Me?' says the LORD. 'Will you not tremble at My presence, Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea, By a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, Yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it.

Slide 11. Remember the Introductory Remark about some receiving from God and some not receiving from God?

Slide 12. There are brothers and sisters that sit before the Lord and are blessed by the Lord in our services. There are brothers and sisters who get nothing during the same service. The Difference is Some Have a holy fear of God, some don't.

Slide 13. [Psa 36:1 NKJV] 1 To the Chief Musician. [A Psalm] of David the servant of the LORD. An oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: [There is] no fear of God before his eyes.

[Rom 3:3, 18 KJV] 3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? ... 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Slide 14. **The Glory of the Lord departs from the Temple.**

[Eze 10:4-5, 15-18 KJV] 4 Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, [and stood] over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD'S glory. 5 And the sound of the cherubims' wings was heard [even] to the outer court, as the voice of the Almighty God when he speaketh. ... 15 And the cherubims were lifted up. This [is] the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar. 16 And when the cherubims went, the wheels went by them: and when the cherubims lifted up their wings to mount up from the earth, the same wheels also turned not from beside them. 17 When they stood, [these] stood; and when they were lifted up, [these] lifted up themselves [also]: for the spirit of the living creature [was] in them. 18 Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims.

Slide 15. **Godly fear drives fear of evil away.**

[Psa 23:4 NKJV] 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You [are] with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

[Psa 34:9 KJV] 9 O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for [there is] no want to them that fear him.

Slide 16. **We must Bring them In! God's Mercy and Grace Does it**

Effects The way we talk

Effects The way we live

We Need Godly Fear

Slide 17. [Luk 12:5-7 KJV] 5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him. 6 Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? 7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Slide 18. **Lack of a Fear of God Leads to**

Lack of Knowledge of God's Word, Too Many Fleshly Motives, Christian Leaders failing to see God's Truth, people not wanting to be in God's presence.

Slide 19. [Jhn 14:15 KJV] 15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.